Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASMARA 01015 070700Z
13
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 INT-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
/028 W
---------- 023540
R 070635Z DEC 76
FM AMCONSUL ASMARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4262
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 1015

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECRP, EALR, ET
SUBJECT: COPPER MINING IN ERITREA

REF: STATE A-4711 (SEPT 24, 1976)

1. THE ECONOMIC ALERT LIST FOR SEPT. 1976 TO MAY 1977, WHICH WAS ENCLOSED WITH REFAIRGRAM, ASKS WHAT HAS BEEN THE IMPACT OF THE ERITREAN INSURGENCY ON COPPER MINING IN ERITREA. THE ANSWER, IN BRIEF, IS THAT THE SOLE COPPER MINING OPERATION WAS HALTED IN 1974 AS A DIRECT RESULT OF INSURGENT ACTION.

2. THE ETHIO NIPPON MINING COMPANY OBTAINED A CONCESSION FROM THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT FOR COPPER EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION IN THE EARLY 1970S. ITS MINE AT DEBARWA (28 KM SW OF ASMARA) WAS INVOLVED IN EXTRACTION OF LIMITED AMOUNTS OF COPPER FOR APPROX-IMATELY ONE YEAR. IN SEPTEMBER, 1974, A BAND OF INSURGENTS RAIDED THE MINE AND DESTROYED SOME OF THE FIRM'S VITAL MACHINERY. THE COMPANY'S OPERATIONS WERE SUSPENDED AS OF THAT DATE. ON AUGUST 1, 1975, THE COMPANY OFFICIALLY INFORMED THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES IN ASMARA THAT IT HAD LIQUIDATED ITS ASSETS IN ERITREA AND THAT IT WAS RELINQUISHING ITS CONCESSIONARY RIGHTS AS OF THAT DATE.
SLUTZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COPPER, MINING, ECONOMIC ALERT LIST (EAL) GUIDANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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